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# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Changes in the Governmental Hierarchy  
2. MSZDP Membership

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report on changes in the Hungarian governmental hierarchy in late April and early May 1957 and on Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (MSZDP) membership at that time. Although old, the report is being made available for what value it may have as background material.

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**COUNTRY:** Hungary

**SUBJECT:** 1. Background to Recent Changes in the  
Government Hierarchy  
2. MSZDP Membership

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1. Arpad Szakasits was not appointed President of the Presidential Council, as anticipated, when the recent changes in the Hungarian Government were announced, because as a non-member of Parliament he is excluded from any government post.<sup>1</sup> and <sup>2</sup> Szakasits will be designated Chairman of the People's Patriotic Front (PPF), and will probably also become the chief editor of the organization's daily newspaper, Magyar Nemzet.

2. Bela Kovacs, leader of the Smallholders' Party, refused to join the new government, despite strong official pressure; President Istvan Dobi and Minister of the Interior Bela Biszku, for example, while visiting Pecs, threatened that Kovacs' 20-year prison sentence, although suspended, could be reactivated. Kovacs, subsequently in Budapest for continued negotiations, announced that he would yield only if a general political amnesty were proclaimed.

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3. At the last minute, the appointment of Jozsef Bognar as Minister of Foreign Trade was cancelled, because he insisted that certain non-Party experts be appointed to assist him.

4. Although the government wants Zoltan Vas to return to Hungary to assume an economic post, he is writing a book, and is apparently not interested in renewing his political activities.

5. In mid-April 1957, two weeks short of the deadline for the registration of new members of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (MSZDP), Party membership totalled only 170,000.<sup>3</sup> Workers have not yielded to official propaganda, and from 80 to 90 per cent remain outside the pale of the Party.

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1. Istvan Dobi, who now holds this post, was to have replaced Janos Kadar as Premier, enabling the latter to concentrate on Party matters.

Comments:

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2. The governmental changes were announced on 9 May 1957.

3. On 14 April 1957 Minister of Culture Gyula Kallai announced that the membership level was 270,000.

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